

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-23 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-12 are canceled; leaving claims 13-23 for consideration. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 13-23 are allowed and that claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-10 are allowable.

Canceling claims 1-12 is believed to render moot the 35 USC 102(e) rejections of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 over DENGER et al. 6,615,771 and over KANEKO 6,619,242. Similarly, the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 over DENBRATT 6,581,551 in view of DENGER is believed moot.

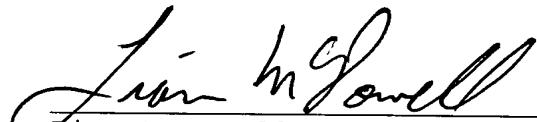
As the claims remaining in the application are indicated as allowed and as there are believed to be no outstanding formal matters, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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